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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Gerard Cote
Serial No.: 10/050,467
Filing Date: January 16, 2002
For: BOX FOR STORING AND DISPENSING CABLE
Art Unit: 3728

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
AND
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTIONS

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the line beginning on page 2, line 31 as follows:

Figure 6 is a cutaway view showing a box and rigid supports formed from a single sheet of cardboard;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14 as follows:

The present invention comprises a box preferably formed of heavy duty corrugated cardboard or other relatively stiff cardboard or other material which is rugged, capable of supporting heavy contents, and typically used for shipping spools of wire and cable. Cardboard is generally preferred because it allows the box to be made at a lower cost. The box is preferably formed as a six-sided container having a rectangular side wall 1 and an opposite side wall of equivalent dimensions and parallel to it, as well as front wall 2 with a corresponding parallel back wall at the other end, and a top wall 3 with a corresponding bottom wall parallel thereto.

The box may be conveniently formed with the top 3 being a lockable cover. The front wall 2 illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is formed with a die-cut, removable panel 10 which can be removed along a perforated line 10A. A portion 10B of the panel 10 may be folded inwardly along crease line 10C and 11 within the box lying adjacent to the spool 26 of cable. This may be done such that the panel 10 frictionally engages the spool 26 or such that the panel 10 serves to reinforce the upper edge of the opening 11 which may be used as a handle for the box. The edges of the panel 10 may be conventionally die cut intermittently so that it will remain in planar alignment with the wall 2 unless moved relative thereto under a positive force. The upper edge may be scored or die cut depending on whether the panel is to be removed completely or folded inwardly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 as follows:

Positioned within the box is an interior support, with its relative position within the box illustrated in Figure 4. The interior support is preferably formed of two opposed rigid supports 18. These rigid supports 18 may comprise STYROFOAM (expanded plastic made from polystyrene) or other rigid plastic elements made through a molding, blow forming, or other plastic forming process. Alternatively, the rigid supports may also be comprised of internal panels of cardboard that may be integrally formed from the same sheet of cardboard used to form the box. The supports are positioned parallel to one another on the inner surfaces of the side walls 1 in a spaced relation. Each support is formed of board approximately one inch thick in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4, with length and width dimensions sized to occupy the width and height of the box. In the illustrated embodiment, the supports here are "U"-shape. The supports 18 are each formed with an integrally defined journal to function as an axle or spindle support 20 in the preferred embodiment. The spindle supports 20 are formed as an elongated opening extending from the upper edges of the supports 18 downwardly from the top 3 of the box towards the bottom edge of the box. The edges 22 form the side edges of the journals while the bottoms 23 forms the bottom edges of the journals. In the illustrated embodiment, the journal of each support is defined by the bight of the "U"-shape. The bottom edge 23 is positioned closer to the bottom of the box than to the top of the box. By spacing the facing edges 22 a

distance on the order of five inches apart, a variety of different sized spindles for spools 26 of wire and cable may be accommodated. A spool 26 of wire or cable 25 is conventionally formed with a spool 26 supported on a spindle 24 with the spindle 24 preferably integrally formed within the spool and having a diameter of less than five inches or less than the space between the opposite edges 22 of each side 18. Alternative embodiments may incorporate a spool that is separate from a spindle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 as follows:

Figure 5 illustrates a plan view of one embodiment of the invention where both the box and the rigid supports 18 are formed from one sheet of cardboard. The figure shows the sheet of cardboard after it has been cut but before it has been glued and folded to form a box with integral rigid supports. The rectangular side walls 1, the end wall 2, and the top wall 3 are numbered in Figure 5 such that they correspond to the numbered sides shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 which show a box in the assembled state. Solid lines in this drawing represent complete cuts in the cardboard while dashed lines represent either fold lines or perforation lines where panels may be removed if desired. Figure 6 shows a cutaway view of box formed from the sheet of cardboard shown in Figure 5. To form the box, the following steps are taken. The sheet is folded along crease lines 2A, 1A between the panels defining the front 2, the back, the side walls 1, and the bottom. Then too, 41A forming a portion of the bottom is glued to tab 41B, 42A is glued to tab 42B and 43A is glued to tab 43B. Tabs 41A, 41B, 42A and 42B form the bottom when secured together. The sheet now has an elongated box form without a top. The next step involves folding panels 44 which are connected to the upper edge of the side panels 1 by crease lines 44A and folding them into the internal cavity of the box. These internal panels 44 as illustrated in Figure 5 each have spacers 46 that integrally connect along crease lines 44B along the edges remote from side panel 1. Each spacer 46 includes a center section 46A and end sections 46B and 46C. The end sections are connected to the center sections along crease lines 46D. These end sections 46B and 46C are folded over the center section 46A into a sandwich-like configuration. Thus assembly of the sandwich-like configuration is folded against the internal panel 44 between the panel 44 and the side wall 1. When so folded the unfolded longitudinal

edge of the sandwich-like configuration is aligned with the lower edge 50 of rectangular opening 51. When assembled the configuration provides a rigid formal support 52 as illustrated in FIG. 6, having at least four thicknesses of cardboard that will function to support the spindle of a spool of wire. Figures 7 and 8 illustrate the details of the top wall 3 of the box. The top wall provides a secure means to keep the box closed and also improves the structural rigidity of the box. The top wall 3 includes a first top flap 31 and a second top flap 32. To close the lockable cover, the first flap 31 is moved into the position shown in Figure 7. Here, the tab at the distal end of the first flap is tucked into an interior portion of the box. Next the second flap 32 is folded over the first flap to a position like that shown in Figure 1. The three flap locks 34 are then tucked into an interior position of the box. The three corresponding locking tabs 35 are then placed through the flap locks 34 to hold the top wall 3 rigidly in place. Such a rigid connection is particularly important when a handle is included in the top wall 3 of the box. Various locking tabs may be incorporated through the invention to hold the various components in place.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 as follows:

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the spool 26 with the cable 25 is pre-packaged within the box. The free end of the cable 25 may be drawn or fed from the box either through the handle opening 15 as illustrated in Figure 3 or, alternately, through the large opening formed by the absence of panel 10 as shown in Figure 2, depending upon the particular needs and desire of the user of the box. Figure 9 shows a retainer that may be used to hold the free end of the cable 25 in place during shipment. The retainer is an elongated rubber band 17, but alternatively could be comprised of different materials including an elastic fabric, a non-elastic fabric, a plastic material, a cord or any similar materials known to those in the art. A first end 17A of the band is fastened to the cable approximately 6 inches from the free end 25A of the cable 25. A second end 17B of the band is then stretched around the spool in the same direction as the cable. After one complete revolution, the second end is looped around the free end of the cable which serves to lock the free end in place. The band has the added benefit of making the free end of the cable easy to locate and remove. To remove the cable from the box, one only has to locate the band and pull or rotate it until it leads to the free end of the cable. Pulling the band in the vicinity of

the cable free end allows the second end of the band to free itself from the cable. A continued pulling force will cause the spool to rotate until cable is being dispensed. Once cable has been dispensed, the band can easily be removed from the cable.

In the Drawings

The Examiner's approval is respectfully requested for the proposed following changes to the drawings shown in red ink in the copies attached. The following corrections are made to Figures 1, and 4-10.

Figure 1: Add a callout for item 11 similar to the callout shown in Figure 3.

Figure 4: Add a callout for item 24 and item 22 as supported in the specification. Add phantom lines for features also shown in Figure 3.

Figure 5: Add callout for 44B as supported in the specification.

Figure 6: Amend callout for 46A and 46C as supported in the specification.

Figure 7: Remove each of three lines shown near each of three items identified as 34. Add additional callouts for items 34 and 35 as supported in the specification.

Figure 8: Remove each of three lines shown near each of three items identified as 34.

Figure 9: Amend callout to reflect to 17A instead of 17B as supported in the specification.

Figure 10: Add line at the edge of the partial view of the box.

REMARKS

Applicant submits the above proposed changes to the drawings shown in red ink to the attached. Applicant also submits several changes to the specification. All of these corrections are submitted to make the drawings conform to each other and the specification. No new matter has been added.

In the specification:

The word 'forced' found in the sentence beginning on line 31 of page 2 is changed to the word 'formed'. This change is made to correct a typographical error.

A callout for the crease line (item 11) at the upper edge of the opening is added to the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14.

A callout for the 'edge 22' found in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 is changed to recite 'the bottom edge 23' to be consistent with the disclosure of Figure 4 and the rest of the disclosure found in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16.

A callout for the center section found in the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 is changed from number 46 to 46A to be consistent with the disclosure of Figure 5. It is noted that the callout 46 comprises each of sections 46A, 46B and 46C.

The verbiage 'formed by the absence of the panel 10' has been added to the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 to correctly identify the opening as item 10, instead of item 11 which is for the crease at the upper edge of the opening as shown in Figure 3.

A reference to Figure 7 in the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 has been corrected to refer to Figure 9.

Each of the foregoing corrections address an obvious typographical error.

In the drawings:

In Figure 1, a callout has been added for the upper edge of the opening (item 11) similar to that shown in Figure 3 and as supported at least by the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14 of the specification.

In Figure 4, an additional callout has been added for a side edge of the journal (item 22) similar to that shown elsewhere in Figure 4. This change is supported at least by the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 and the existing callout for item 22 shown in Figure 4. A callout has also been added for the spindle (item 24) of the spool as supported at least by the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 in the specification. Phantom lines for features also shown in Figure 3 have also been added and are at least supported by Figure 3.

In Figure 5, a callout has been added for the crease lines (items 44B) along the edges remote from the side panels, as supported in the specification by at least the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8.

Serial No. 10/050,467

- 7 -

Art Unit 3728

In Figure 6, the callout for end section (item 46C) has been corrected to be consistent with Figure 5 and the paragraph of the specification beginning on page 5, line 8.

In Figure 7, additional callouts for flap locks (item 34) and locking tabs (item 35) have been added. Each of these features are shown elsewhere in Figure 7 and are further supported by at least the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 of the specification.

In Figures 7 and 8, three small lines near the flap locks (items 34) have been removed as they were drawn in error. This change is supported at least by the similar features shown in Figure 1.

In Figure 9, the callout for the first end of the band (17A) is added as supported by at least the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10 of the specification. This callout was mistakenly shown as 17B.

In Figure 10 a line is added to mark the edge of the partial view of the box.

Serial No. 10/050,467



- 8 -

Art Unit 3728

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Wolf", written over a horizontal line.

David Wolf, Reg. 17,528
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
617-720-3500

Serial No. 10/050,467



- 9 -

Art Unit 3728

Marked-Up Specification

Please replace the line beginning on page 2, line 31 as follows:

Figure 6 is a cutaway view showing a box and rigid supports [~~forced~~]formed from a single sheet of cardboard;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14 as follows:

The present invention comprises a box preferably formed of heavy duty corrugated cardboard or other relatively stiff cardboard or other material which is rugged, capable of supporting heavy contents, and typically used for shipping spools of wire and cable. Cardboard is generally preferred because it allows the box to be made at a lower cost. The box is preferably formed as a six-sided container having a rectangular side wall 1 and an opposite side wall of equivalent dimensions and parallel to it, as well as front wall 2 with a corresponding parallel back wall at the other end, and a top wall 3 with a corresponding bottom wall parallel thereto. The box may be conveniently formed with the top 3 being a lockable cover. The front wall 2 illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is formed with a die-cut, removable panel 10 which can be removed along a perforated line 10A. A portion 10B of the panel 10 may be folded inwardly along crease line 10C and 11 within the box lying adjacent to the spool 26 of cable. This may be done such that the panel 10 frictionally engages the spool 26 or such that the panel 10 serves to reinforce the upper edge of the opening 11 which may be used as a handle for the box. The edges of the panel 10 may be conventionally die cut intermittently so that it will remain in planar alignment with the wall 2 unless moved relative thereto under a positive force. The upper edge may be scored or die cut depending on whether the panel is to be removed completely or folded inwardly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 as follows:

Positioned within the box is an interior support, with its relative position within the box illustrated in Figure 4. The interior support is preferably formed of two opposed rigid supports

18. These rigid supports 18 may comprise STYROFOAM (expanded plastic made from polystyrene) or other rigid plastic elements made through a molding, blow forming, or other plastic forming process. Alternatively, the rigid supports may also be comprised of internal panels of cardboard that may be integrally formed from the same sheet of cardboard used to form the box. The supports are positioned parallel to one another on the inner surfaces of the side walls 1 in a spaced relation. Each support is formed of board approximately one inch thick in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4, with length and width dimensions sized to occupy the width and height of the box. In the illustrated embodiment, the supports here are "U"-shape. The supports 18 are each formed with an integrally defined journal to function as an axle or spindle support 20 in the preferred embodiment. The spindle supports 20 are formed as an elongated opening extending from the upper edges of the supports 18 downwardly from the top 3 of the box towards the bottom edge of the box. The edges 22 form the side edges of the journals while the bottoms 23 forms the bottom edges of the journals. In the illustrated embodiment, the journal of each support is defined by the bight of the "U"-shape. The bottom edge [22] 23 is positioned closer to the bottom of the box than to the top of the box. By spacing the facing edges 22 a distance on the order of five inches apart, a variety of different sized spindles for spools 26 of wire and cable may be accommodated. A spool 26 of wire or cable 25 is conventionally formed with a spool 26 supported on a spindle 24 with the spindle 24 preferably integrally formed within the spool and having a diameter of less than five inches or less than the space between the opposite edges 22 of each side 18. Alternative embodiments may incorporate a spool that is separate from a spindle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 as follows:

Figure 5 illustrates a plan view of one embodiment of the invention where both the box and the rigid supports 18 are formed from one sheet of cardboard. The figure shows the sheet of cardboard after it has been cut but before it has been glued and folded to form a box with integral rigid supports. The rectangular side walls 1, the end wall 2, and the top wall 3 are numbered in Figure 5 such that they correspond to the numbered sides shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 which show a box in the assembled state. Solid lines in this drawing represent complete cuts in the

cardboard while dashed lines represent either fold lines or perforation lines where panels may be removed if desired. Figure 6 shows a cutaway view of box formed from the sheet of cardboard shown in Figure 5. To form the box, the following steps are taken. The sheet is folded along crease lines 2A, 1A between the panels defining the front 2, the back, the side walls 1, and the bottom. Then too, 41A forming a portion of the bottom is glued to tab 41B, 42A is glued to tab 42B and 43A is glued to tab 43B. Tabs 41A, 41B, 42A and 42B form the bottom when secured together. The sheet now has an elongated box form without a top. The next step involves folding panels 44 which are connected to the upper edge of the side panels 1 by crease lines 44A and folding them into the internal cavity of the box. These internal panels 44 as illustrated in Figure 5 each have spacers 46 that integrally connect along crease lines 44B along the edges remote from side panel 1. Each spacer 46 includes a center section 46A and end sections 46B and 46C. The end sections are connected to the center sections along crease lines 46D. These end sections 46B and 46C are folded over the center section [46] 46A into a sandwich-like configuration. Thus assembly of the sandwich-like configuration is folded against the internal panel 44 between the panel 44 and the side wall 1. When so folded the unfolded longitudinal edge of the sandwich-like configuration is aligned with the lower edge 50 of rectangular opening 51. When assembled the configuration provides a rigid formal support 52 as illustrated in FIG. 6, having at least four thicknesses of cardboard that will function to support the spindle of a spool of wire. Figures 7 and 8 illustrate the details of the top wall 3 of the box. The top wall provides a secure means to keep the box closed and also improves the structural rigidity of the box. The top wall 3 includes a first top flap 31 and a second top flap 32. To close the lockable cover, the first flap 31 is moved into the position shown in Figure 7. Here, the tab at the distal end of the first flap is tucked into an interior portion of the box. Next the second flap 32 is folded over the first flap to a position like that shown in Figure 1. The three flap locks 34 are then tucked into an interior position of the box. The three corresponding locking tabs 35 are then placed through the flap locks 34 to hold the top wall 3 rigidly in place. Such a rigid connection is particularly important when a handle is included in the top wall 3 of the box. Various locking tabs may be incorporated through the invention to hold the various components in place.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 as follows:

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the spool 26 with the cable 25 is pre-packaged within the box. The free end of the cable 25 may be drawn or fed from the box either through the handle opening 15 as illustrated in Figure 3 or, alternately, through the large opening [11] formed by the absence of panel 10 as shown in Figure 2, depending upon the particular needs and desire of the user of the box. Figure [7] 9 shows a retainer that may be used to hold the free end of the cable 25 in place during shipment. The retainer is an elongated rubber band 17, but alternatively could be comprised of different materials including an elastic fabric, a non-elastic fabric, a plastic material, a cord or any similar materials known to those in the art. A first end 17A of the band is fastened to the cable approximately 6 inches from the free end 25A of the cable 25. A second end 17B of the band is then stretched around the spool in the same direction as the cable. After one complete revolution, the second end is looped around the free end of the cable which serves to lock the free end in place. The band has the added benefit of making the free end of the cable easy to locate and remove. To remove the cable from the box, one only has to locate the band and pull or rotate it until it leads to the free end of the cable. Pulling the band in the vicinity of the cable free end allows the second end of the band to free itself from the cable. A continued pulling force will cause the spool to rotate until cable is being dispensed. Once cable has been dispensed, the band can easily be removed from the cable.

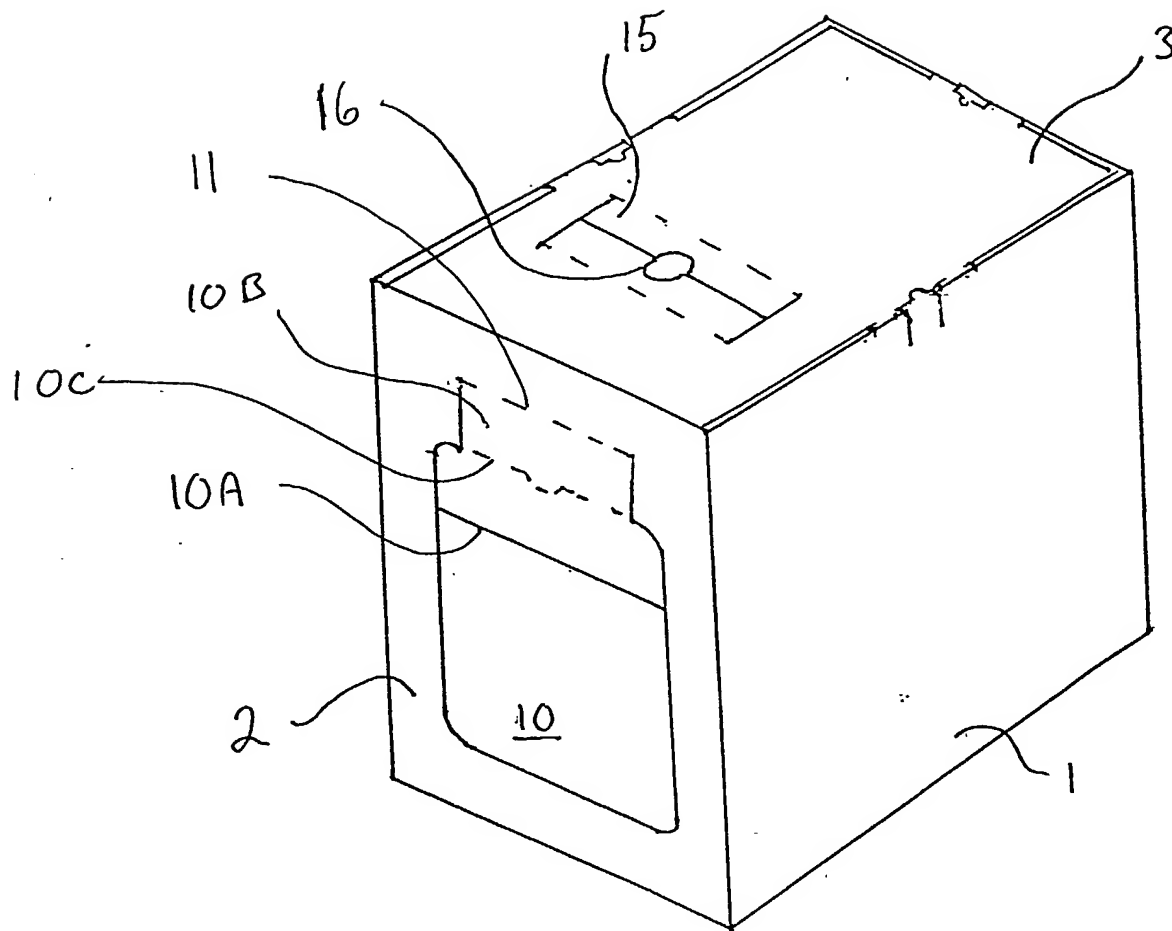
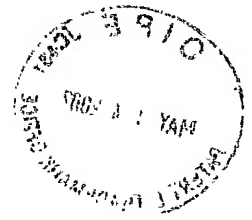


Figure 1

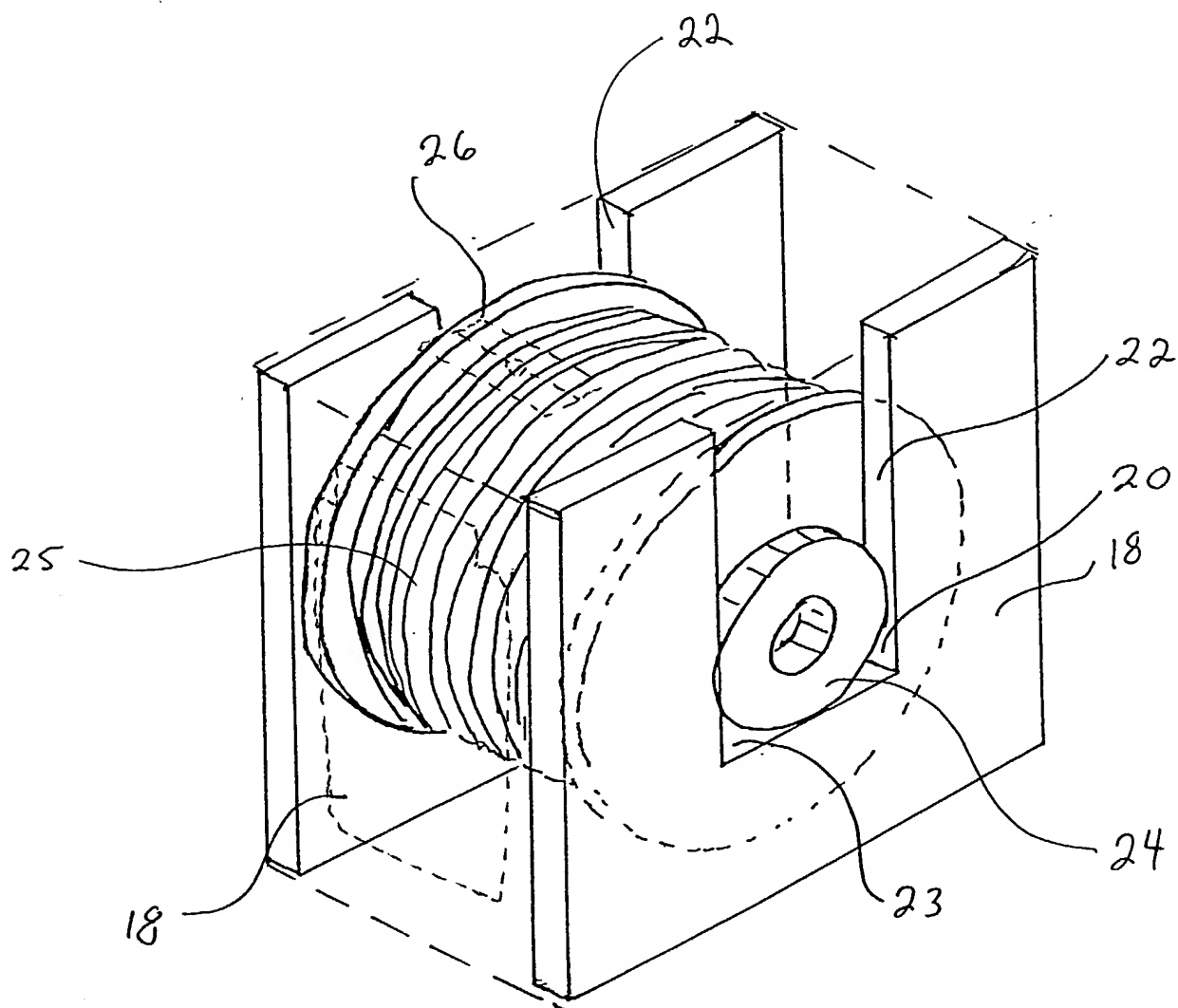
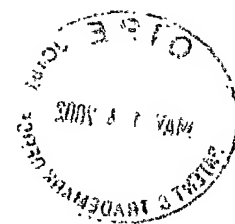


Figure 4

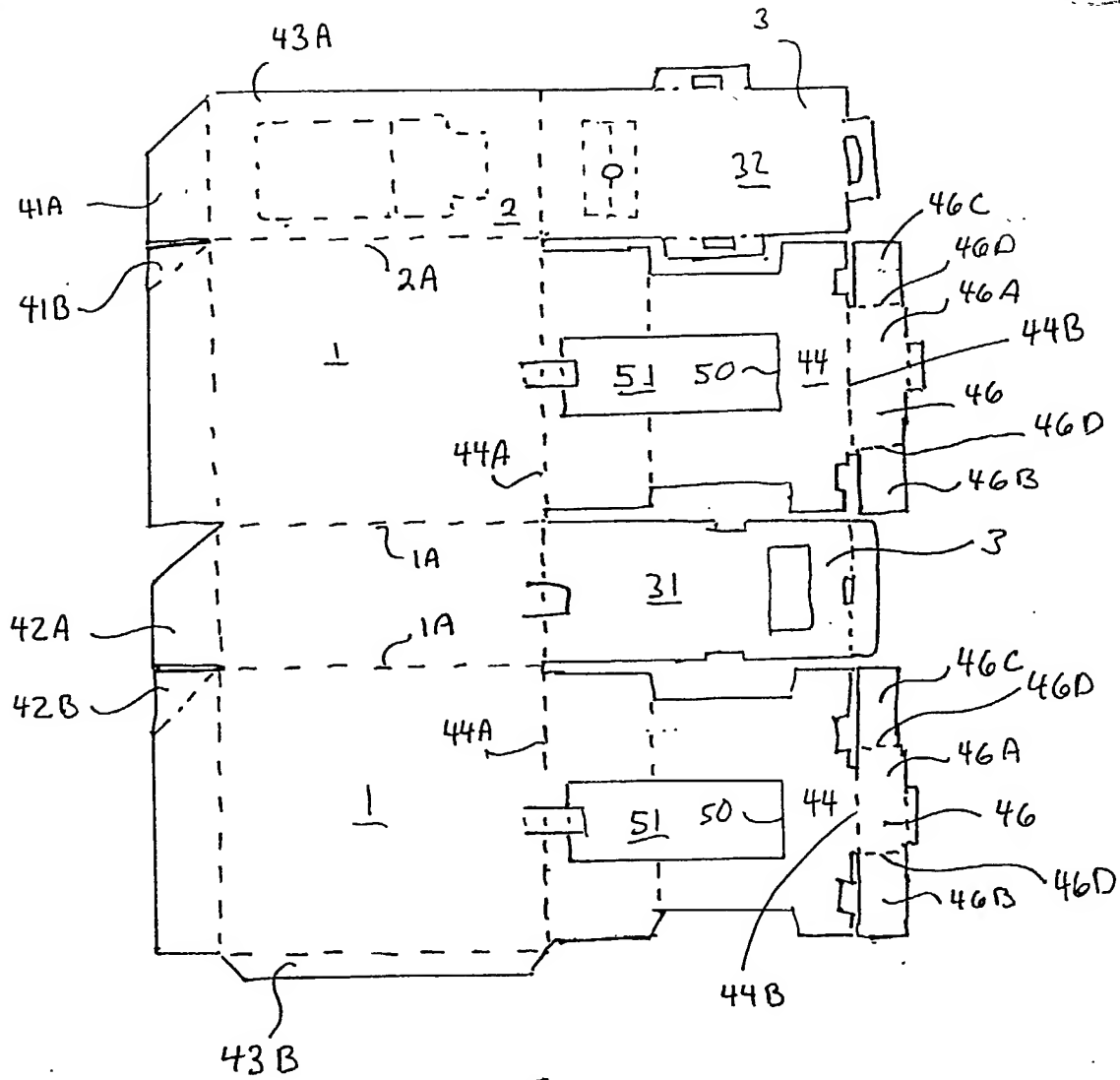


Figure 5

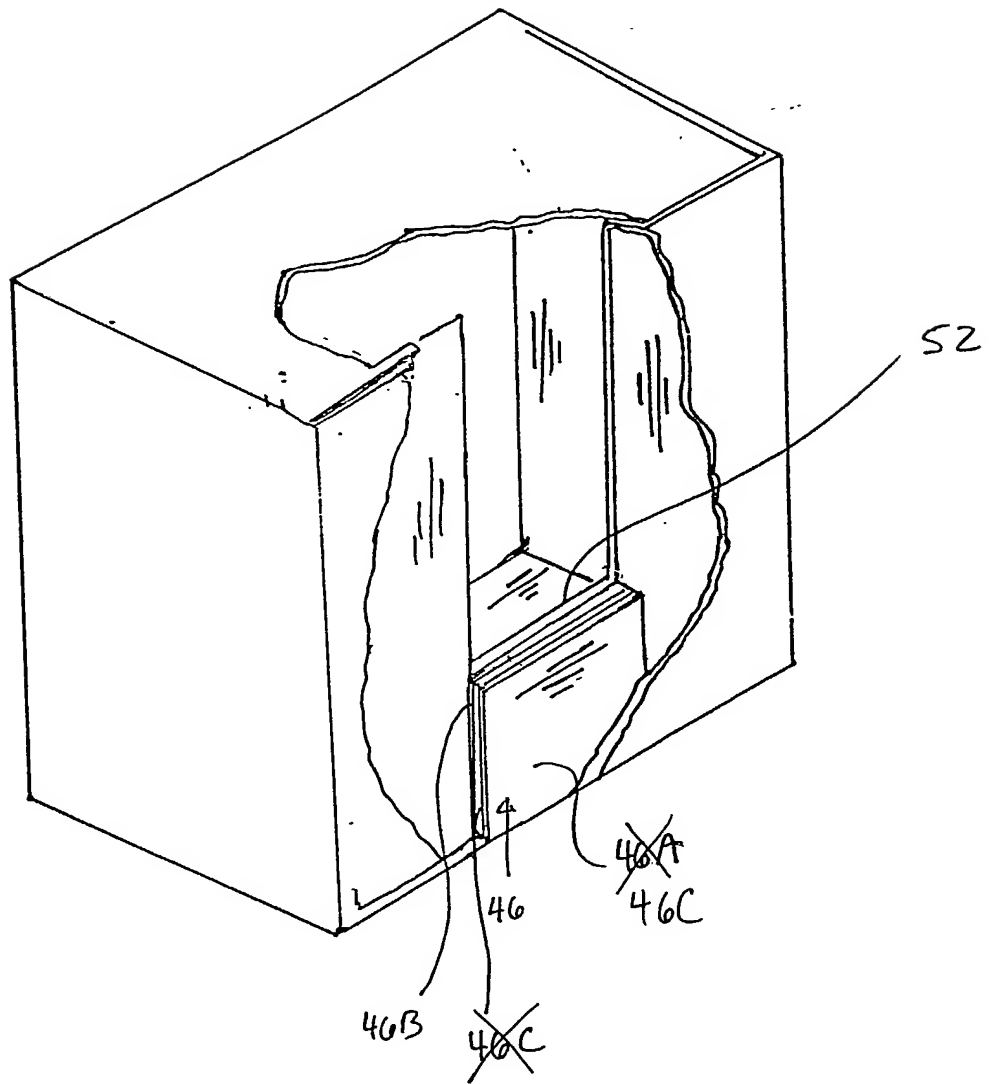


Figure 6

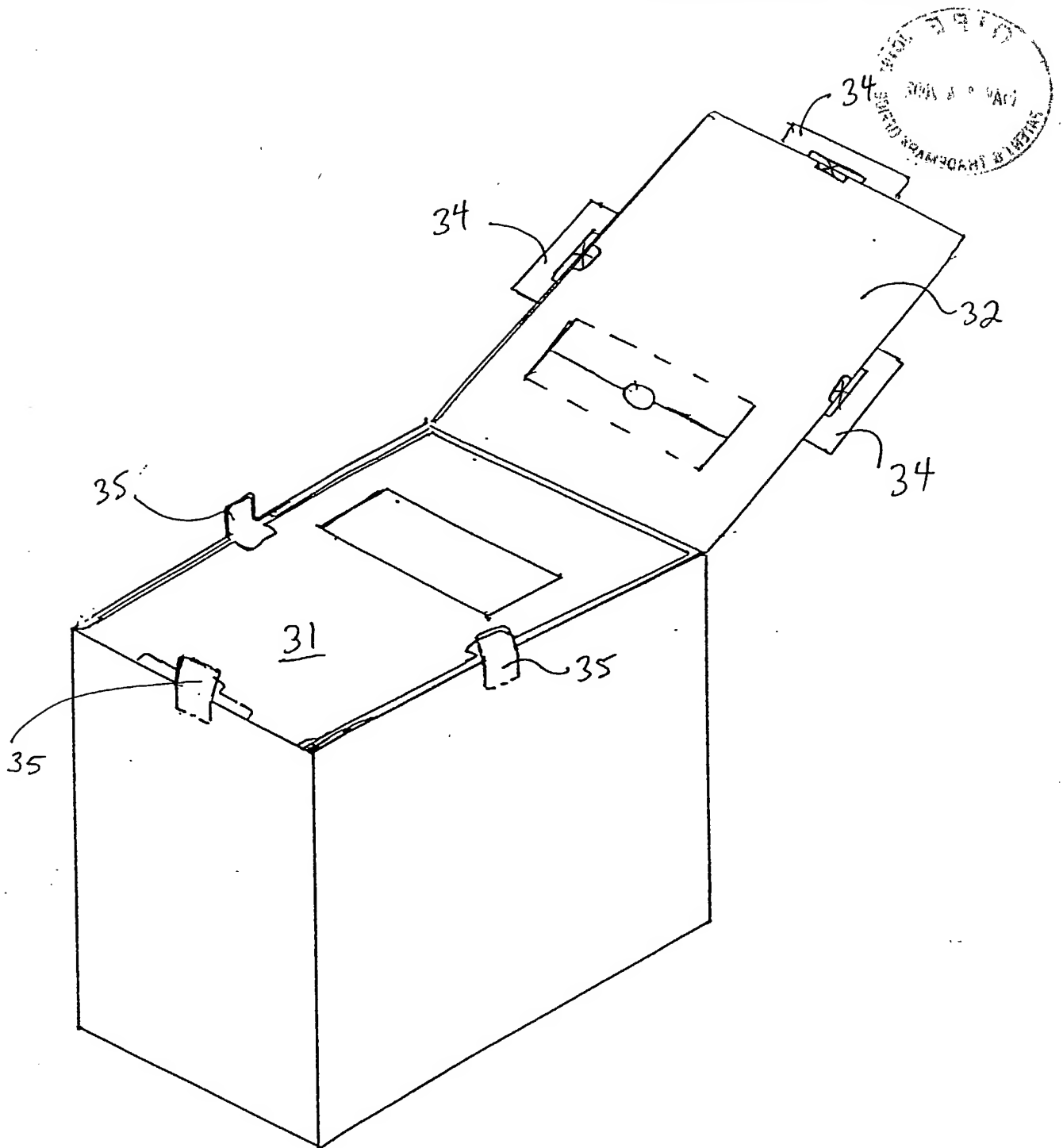


Figure 7

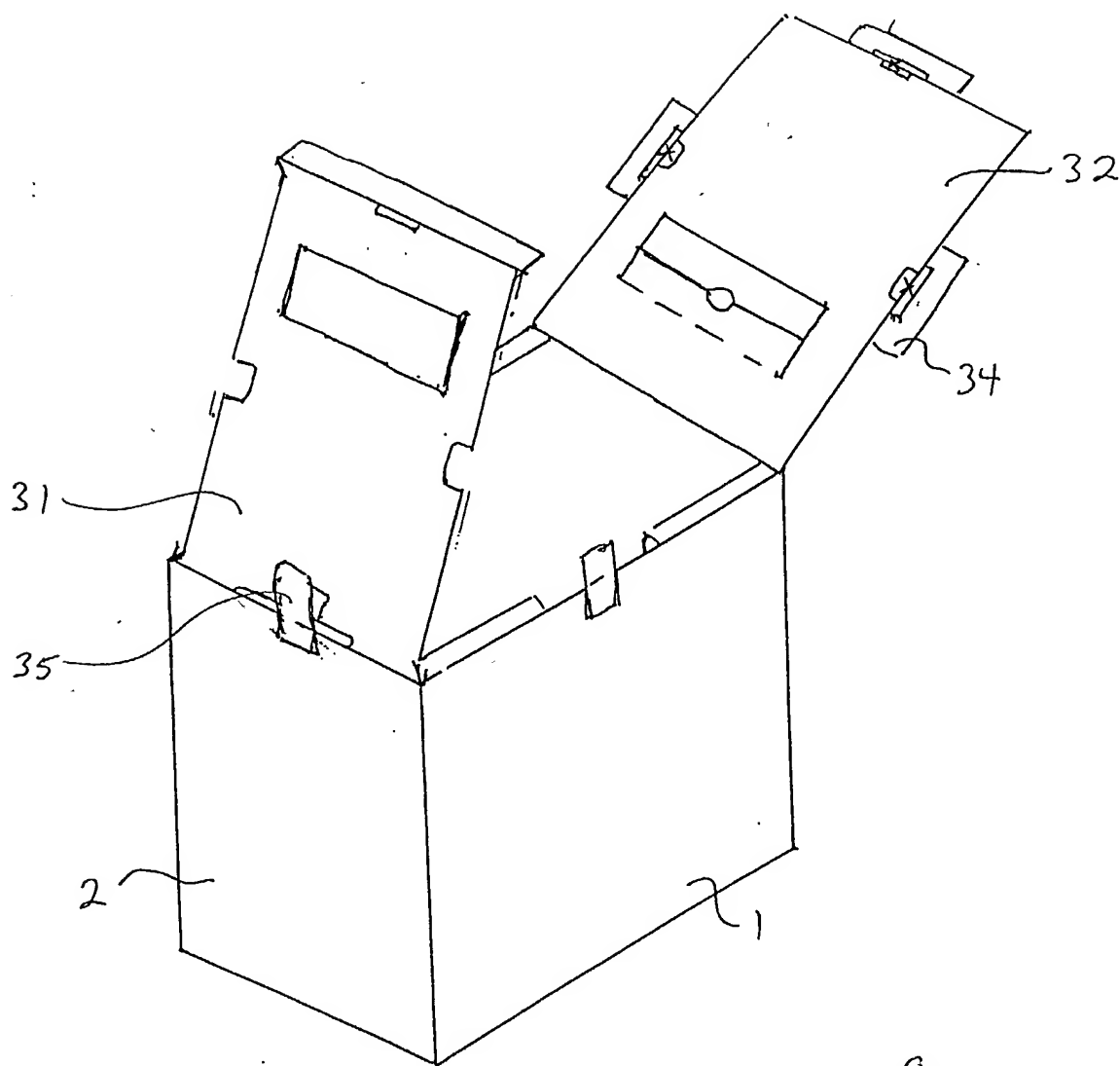


Figure 8

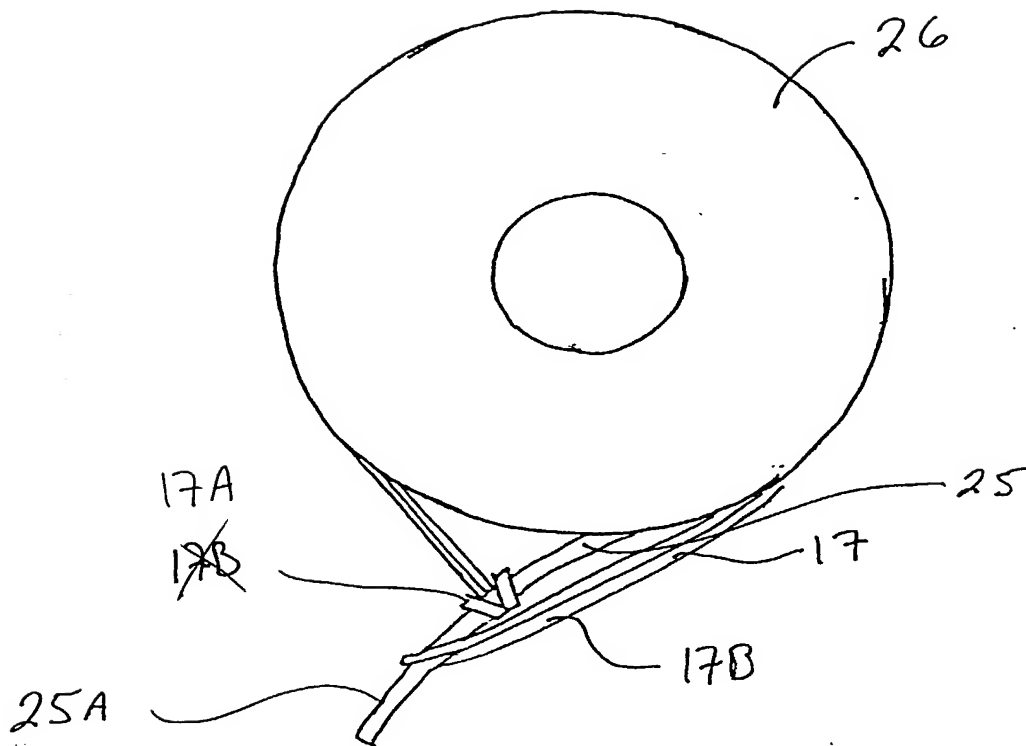


Figure 9

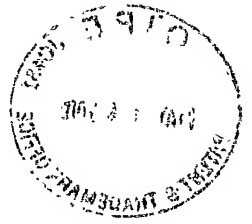


Figure 10

